

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP JPA)

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING

March 29, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, California 92307

MINUTES

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Apple Valley USD – Trena Nelson, Oro Grande SD – Derek Delton, Silver Valley USD – Jesse Najera, Snowline USD – Ryan Holman, Trona JUSD – Jerry Jennex, and Victor Elementary SD – Lori Clark.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jan Gonzales – San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, District Governance Advisors and Selina Hurley (via Web Ex) – San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, Business Services.

CAHELP JPA STAFF PRESENT:

Pamela Bender, Heidi Chavez, Peggy Dunn, Marina Gallegos, Linda Llamas, Letitia Macaraeg, Deborah Sarkesian, and Jennifer Sutton.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions, Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA) Governance Council was called to order by Chairperson Jesse Najera at 10:06 a.m. at the Desert/Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley.

2.0 ROLL CALL

3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the adoption of the March 29, 2024 CAHELP JPA Governance Council Meeting Agenda failed due to lack of quorum.

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

5.1 2023-24 Desert Mountain County Operated Special Education Fee-For-Service Budget – 2nd Interim Update

Selina Hurley, SBCSS Accountant, presented the 2023-24 Desert Mountain County Operated Special Education Fee-For-Service (FFS) Budget – 2nd Interim Update. Selina reported revenues have increased due to AB602 and services increasing by 826 students. There was also an increase in LCFF transfer due to an increase in average daily attendance (ADA) of 205 students. Selina said there was a large increase in related services and specialized academic instruction (SAI) leading to an increase in expenditures. There were expenditures savings related to vacancy savings because of positions that were not filled. The estimated FFS ending balance is \$9,701,137 plus the reserve amount of \$1,780,172 brings the estimated total ending balance to \$11,481,309, with no proposed adjustments to the fee structure.

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5.2 2023-24 1st 50% Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Revenue Transfer – District Funded Students in County Operated Special Education Programs

Selina Hurley presented the 2023-24 1st 50% LCFF Revenue Transfer – District Funded Students in County Operated Special Education Programs. Selina stated the LCFF Revenue Transfer amount is based on P1 certified data with a projected LCFF ending fund balance of \$13,975,821. Selina elucidated that the allocation is derived from the Prior Year Average Daily Attendance (P-1 ADA) and detailed information regarding this allocation can be accessed on the official SBCSS website.

5.3 Credentials Bridge Authorization

Desert Mountain Operations Area Director Rich Frederick presented SBCSS credentials bridge authorization information. During the meeting, it was reported that California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) is allowing SELPAs, school districts, and County Offices of Education to provide training for teachers to assist them in receiving the additional authorizations. Rich stated the training is professional development to meet the requirements of the new credentials from Mild Moderate Disabilities (MMD), Moderate Severe Disabilities (MSD), or Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) to Mild to Moderate Support (MMS), Extensive Support Needs (ESN), or Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) respectively. Notably, the expansion of authorization for the Mild Moderate Support Needs and Extensive Support Needs credentials broadens the pool of educators eligible to serve in these capacities and now includes Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, and Traumatic Brain Injury. Rich reported the inclusion of Early Childhood Special Education Credential is particularly significant, encompassing transitional kindergarten and kindergarten teaching for students with special needs. In addressing the need for Orthopedic Impairment expertise within the educational system, the bridge training will empower educators to serve such cases directly, thus reducing referrals to county programs. Rich reported the bridging of authorizations is not intended to be a preliminary credential program but instead allows current credential holders to bridge for the new authorizations. The 2.5-hour training is in an interactive format and allows ESN and MMSN to be done simultaneously. For the SBCSS County teachers, SBCSS Human Resources will provide support in completing CCTC paperwork during the last half hour of each session. Rich shared the cost of bridging each credential to the CCTC is \$100 and SBCSS is using Educator Effectiveness Funds to cover the cost, and completion of one session suffices to bridge the credentials. Additionally, it was noted that either the district or the SELPA director could sign the authorization form allowing the training to be provided at the district level or the SELPA level.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that DMSELPA would organize and offer the training sessions with the LEAs deciding how the \$100 CCTC fee would be paid. The information on the trainings will be disseminated once they are operational with multiple sessions provided as needed.

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6.0 CONSENT ITEMS

It is recommended that the Governance Council consider approving several Agenda items as a Consent list. Consent Items are routine in nature and can be enacted in one motion without further discussion. Consent items may be called up by any Council Member at the meeting for clarification, discussion, or change.

6.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the following consent items be tabled to the May 10, 2024 meeting due to lack of quorum.

6.1.1 March 1, 2024 CAHELP JPA Governance Council Meeting Minutes.

6.1.2 2024-25 CAHELP JPA Governance Council Schedule of Meetings.

7.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Legislative Update

Pam Bender highlighted Assembly Bill (AB) 2173 that is written to change the terminology of emotional disturbance to emotional disability. The change is helpful because many parents do not want the disability of emotional disturbance on their child's IEP with the unintended consequence of the child not receiving services to better support them. Pam reported the bill has been passed by the Education Committee and it will continue to move forward.

7.2 SELPA Funding Cap

Pam Bender shared information pertaining to the SELPA Funding Cap. She clarified that equalized funding is applicable for one year to ensure LEAs are being funded at the same base rate as last year. Marina Gallegos has reviewed the formula provided by State SELPA that includes the percentage change in each LEA and incorporates an 8.22% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Pam noted that each member district will see a slight increase in their base rate compared to last year, totaling \$14,000 across the SELPA. However, Desert Mountain Charter SELPA (DMCS) will receive slightly less, totaling \$3800 based on their ADA from the previous year. Pam emphasized that these figures could alter with the finalization of P-2, contingent upon ADA. Looking ahead to the May meeting, Pam suggested decisions might need to be made regarding how each LEA receives their base funding from the previous year. She clarified that while this adjustment does not necessitate inclusion in the allocation plan due to its one-year nature, the Governance Board will need to decide on how all LEAs are made whole.

Marina said the reason for the shortfall for DMCS is the allocation plan rolls the program specialist funding into the base allocation. She said it will occur in perpetuity unless the allocation plan is changed. Part of the reason the allocation plan is written that way is it allows the program specialist funding and administration fees to be taken off the top providing more funds.

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7.3 Compliance Update

Pam Bender provided an update on compliance issues from the California Department of Education including IEP Implementation and Monitoring, Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIM) and levels of intervention. During the meeting, Pam stated all districts have received their Annual Determination Letters and are continuing to work through the process. Pam said that updated progress reports will need to be submitted to CDE. Regarding Small Schools Monitoring, CDE has distributed Small School Monitoring Cycle B and Cycle C notifications informing districts of the timeline for progress monitoring identification. Pam emphasized that IEP implementation should not be confined to the period of March 1st through April 29th but should be ongoing. She continued that service tracking must also be done for services provided by nonpublic agencies and retained on site. Pam added that SEIS does have IEP implementation available but it is not mandatory to use that system but a system must be in place. She explained that an issue with SEIS is it is based on 365 days and not a school year so the percentage is skewed. Other LEAs that use SEIS have developed a different formula using SEIS data for accurate percentages of services rendered and Pam is working to collect that information. Pam encouraged special education directors and case managers to utilize the SEIS dashboard to monitor late IEPs and to identify patterns of delays.

8.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

8.1 Professional Learning Summaries

Pam Bender shared that not much has changed since the meeting on March 1, 2024. She reported that Behavioral Supports and Individual Protections are in demand as the students are continuing to recover from the pandemic.

8.2 Resolution Support Services Summaries

Pam Bender shared there have been 38 filings in DMSELPA for the year. There were two parents filed against which is sometimes necessary and in both cases, the LEAs prevailed.

9.0 CLOSED SESSION – 10:35 A.M.

9.1 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Reassignment/Transfer/Resignation

9.2 Chief Executive Officer Evaluation

Reconvene to Open Session – 12:39 p.m.

10.0 GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS

None.

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11.0 CEO COMMENTS

Pam Bender thanked the governance council members for their support.

12.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY GENERAL PUBLIC

None.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, Jesse Najera ended the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the CAHELP JPA Governance Council will be held on Friday, May 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Aster/Cactus Room, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

Individuals requiring special accommodations for disabilities are requested to contact Jamie Adkins at (760) 955-3555, at least seven days prior to the date of this meeting.